

## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Sterilization method for at high speed and surely sterilizing the container, such as a beverage bottle is offered.

5 An apparatus comprises the step of supplying a disinfectant mist into a container 1, the step of heating the container 1 into which the mist has been supplied, the step of while discharging the mist from the container 1 , and the step of rinsing an inside of the container 1 after discharge of the mist therefrom. The apparatus may comprise a further step of preheating the container 1 in advance of supply of the  
10 mist. The step of preheating the container, a lip portion 1a of the container may be heated separately.